

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sun et al. (US 6,600,085). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Invention

Applicants are claiming an adhesive bandage comprising a wound contacting pad, where the wound contacting pad comprises from about 5% to about 30% by weight of absorbent fibers and from about 70% to about 95% by weight of synthetic non-absorbent fibers (Page 13, ll. 21-26). The absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, and wood pulp, and the synthetic non-absorbent fibers are selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyamides and polyester (Page 10, l. 22 – Page 11, l. 7). The nonwoven fabric has a first major surface and a second major surface (Page 16, ll. 4-9, Page 23, ll. 21-24); and an apertured film (Page 3, ll. 23 – Page 8, ll. 4, Page 21, ll. 16-20, Page 22, ll. 13-14, Page 23, ll. 2) secured to at least one major surface of the nonwoven fabric (Page 10, ll. 4 – Page 11, ll. 25, Page 12, ll. 16-17, Page 14, ll. 11-13). An apertured film is secured to one surface of the nonwoven fabric. The absorbent fabric has a density of from about 0.01 g/cc to 0.05 g/cc (Page 3, ll. 5-7, Page 12, ll. 17-20, Page 13, ll. 21-24, and Page 15, ll. 27-28) and basis weight of from about 30 gsm to about 150 gsm (Page 12, ll. 2-4).

Regarding Sun, Applicants respectfully submit that selection of the particular ranges of absorbent and non-absorbent fibers as claimed by Applicants, coupled with a selection of a particular range of fabric density, is not routine experimentation. The Office Action maintains that one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized a number of characteristics and/or benefits associated with selection of specific ranges, etc., but fails to provide any teachings or information from the prior art to support such a position. If there is information in the prior art upon which the Office Action relies to support such a position, Applicants respectfully request that such information be identified on the record.

Assuming arguendo that the claims are considered to be prima facie obvious, and Applicants respectfully submit that they are not, as noted at page 12, lines 16-22, page 13, line 21 through page 14, line 9, and at pages 29 and 30, including Tables 1 and 2, fabrics as claimed by Applicants exhibit synergistic properties of absorbency, coupled with reduced removal force. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that these synergistic properties are sufficient to overcome a claim of prima facie obviousness.

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Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 10 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and request that the rejection be withdrawn. Applicants further earnestly request a Notice of Allowance with respect to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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